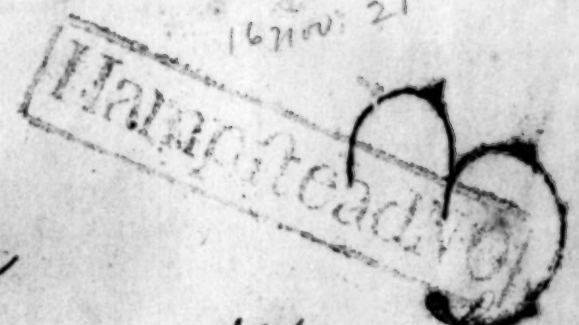
XII

For

16 Nov 21



Ship Fleet

Richard Abbys Esqr

Walthamstow

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Thursday Evening
15 Nov 1821

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ies, I have been waiting, my dear Fanny, some time
in the expectation of hearing you were arrived in
London for the winter, afraid to write lest the letter
should be too late and without any means of ascertain-
ing the truth as my brother was in the country and
I do not know any one else in the habit of going
Fanny
to the city. As soon as he returned I sent him
with a note for you and heard to my great sur-
prize you were not expected for a week. When
you do come I shall be very glad to see you
directly you find it convenient — I hope by
that time you will have had an opportunity of
reading some of your books — I don't at all think
you will succeed in making Mrs. Abby a

literary lady – I go on as usual, reading every trumpery novel that comes in my way spoiling my taste and understanding, as for acquaintance I see none unless I take the trouble of going after them. Mr. Lyttelton must needs call one day when there was no one at home so I know nothing of him – I have been a few days at Mrs. Dilkes there I heard only one thing to please me, she had quarrelled, I hope for ever with the Reynolds. Pry dear Fanny if you live the Age of Methuselem and I die tomorrow never be intimate with the Reynolds, for I dare say they will come your way – Mrs. Dilke cannot keep up a feud and perhaps will be friends again. Every day I live I find out more of their malice

against me ——— I don't know whether you wish particularly to see Mrs. Dilke but I shall I think bring her again. I like so much more to be with you by myself

I wish I knew what books you have read for I would write about them. There is nothing I like better to talk about unless it is to such a very great judge that I am afraid they will think all my delightful criticism nonsense. So I hope you are not one of those terrible persons or will not let me know it for depend on it I should neither open my lips or move my pen on the subject and so you would lose the benefit of my opinion — I must also beg you will not learn whole verses or chapters &c. to oblige me for though I can remember prettily well generally I read too many things to

do so particularly so what you may take for a proof of stupidity, is on the contrary through the quick extensiveness of my stud

I was almost afraid of sending my brot to enquire after you, for he has got a white coat and I am afraid fancied himself a man so it would have looked suspicious, par ticularly if he had left the note

Hoping to see you soon, I remain my dear

Yours most affectionately

E Browne